

ζ^2 Ret, its debris disk, and its lonely stellar companion ζ^1 Ret

Different T_c trends for different spectra^{*}, ^{**}

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ABSTRACT

Context. Several studies have reported a correlation between the chemical abundances of stars and condensation temperature (known as T_c trend). Very recently, a strong T_c trend was reported for the ζ Reticuli binary system, which consists of two solar analogs. The observed trend in ζ^2 Ret relative to its companion was explained by the presence of a debris disk around ζ^2 Ret.

Aims. Our goal is to re-evaluate the presence and variability of the T_c trend in the ζ Reticuli system and to understand the impact of the presence of the debris disk on a star.

Methods. We used very high-quality spectra of the two stars retrieved from the HARPS archive to derive very precise stellar parameters and chemical abundances. We derived the stellar parameters with the classical (nondifferential) method, while we applied a differential line-by-line analysis to achieve the highest possible precision in abundances, which are fundamental to explore for very tiny differences in the abundances between the stars.

Results. We confirm that the abundance difference between ζ^2 Ret and ζ^1 Ret shows a significant ($\sim 2\sigma$) correlation with T_c . However, we also find that the T_c trends depend on the individual spectrum used (even if always of very high quality). In particular, we find significant but varying differences in the abundances of the same star from different individual high-quality spectra.

Conclusions. Our results for the ζ Reticuli system show, for example, that nonphysical factors, such as the quality of spectra employed and errors that are not accounted for, can be at the root of the T_c trends for the case of individual spectra.

Key words. (Stars:) Planetary systems, Techniques: spectroscopy, stars: abundances, stars: binaries, stars: individual: ζ^1 Ret (= HD 20766), ζ^2 Ret (= HD 20807)

1. Introduction

In the last decade, noticeable advances were made in the characterization of atmospheric properties and chemical compositions of cool, sun-like stars. The achieved high precision in chemical abundances allowed observers to study the chemical abundances of stars with and without planets in detail (e.g., Gilli et al. 2006; Robinson et al. 2006; Delgado Mena et al. 2014, 2015; Kang et al. 2011; Adibekyan et al. 2012a,b, 2015c). These studies are very important since the chemical abundances of stars with planets provide a huge wealth of information about the planet formation process (e.g., Bond et al. 2010; Delgado Mena et al. 2010), composition of planets (e.g., Thiabaud et al. 2014; Dorn et al.

2015; Santos et al. 2015), and even about the habitability of the planets (e.g., Adibekyan et al. 2015a).

The achieved extremely high precision in chemical abundances also facilitated the study of very subtle chemical peculiarities in stars that had initially appeared to be Sun-like. The quintessential example, the so-called T_c trend, is the trend of individual chemical abundances with the condensation temperature (T_c) of the elements. Many studies, beginning with Gonzalez (1997) and Smith et al. (2001), attempted to search for planet accretion and/or formation signatures in the photospheric chemical compositions of cool stars by looking at the T_c trends (e.g., Takeda et al. 2001; Ecuivillon et al. 2006; Sozzetti et al. 2006; Meléndez et al. 2009; Ramírez et al. 2009; González Hernández et al. 2010; Schuler et al. 2011b; González Hernández et al. 2013; Maldonado et al. 2015; Nissen 2015; Biazzo et al. 2015; Saffe et al. 2015).

Meléndez et al. (2009) claimed that the Sun shows a deficiency in refractory elements with respect to other solar twins because these elements were trapped in the terrestrial planets in our solar system. The same conclusion was also reached by Ramírez et al. (2009), who analyzed 64 solar twins and analogs

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^{**} The Tables with EWs of the lines and chemical abundances are only available in electronic form at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/qcat?J/A+A/>

with and without detected planets. However, later results by González Hernández et al. (2010) and González Hernández et al. (2013) strongly challenge the relation between the presence of planets and the abundance peculiarities of the stars.

Rocky material accretion is by far not the only explanation for the T_c trend. Recently, Adibekyan et al. (2014) showed that the T_c trend strongly depends on the stellar age¹ and they found a tentative dependence on the galactocentric distances of the stars. The authors concluded that the T_c trend depends on the Galactic chemical evolution (GCE) and suggested that the difference in T_c slopes, observed between planet hosting solar analogs and solar analogs without detected planets, may reflect their age difference. Maldonado et al. (2015) and Maldonado & Villaver (2016) also confirmed the correlation of the T_c trend with age, and further suggested a significant correlation with the stellar radius and mass. Önehag et al. (2014) in turn showed that while the Sun shows a different T_c trend when compared to the solar-field twins, it shows a very similar abundance trend with T_c when compared to the stars from the open cluster M67. These authors suggested that the Sun, unlike most stars, was formed in a dense stellar environment where the protostellar disk was already depleted in refractory elements before the star formation. Gaidos (2015) also suggested that gas-dust segregation in the disk can be responsible for the T_c trends.

While above mentioned mechanisms and processes (e.g., GCE or age effect) can be responsible for the general T_c trends for field-star samples, they cannot easily explain trends observed between companions of binary systems. Several authors studied the T_c trend in binary stars with and without planetary companions (e.g., Liu et al. 2014; Saffe et al. 2015; Mack et al. 2016) or binary stars where both components host planets (e.g., Biazzo et al. 2015; Teske et al. 2015; Ramírez et al. 2015; Teske et al. 2016). The results and conclusions of these studies show that there are no systematic differences in the chemical abundances of stars with and without planets in binary systems. Moreover, there is no consensus on the results even for the same, individual systems (e.g., 16 Cyg AB; Laws & Gonzalez 2001; Takeda 2005; Schuler et al. 2011a; Tucci Maia et al. 2014).

Recently, Maldonado et al. (2015) studied a large sample of stars with and without debris disks to search for chemical anomalies related to the formation of planets. They found no significant differences in chemical abundances or in the T_c trends between the two samples. However, very recently, Saffe et al. (2016, hereafter S16) reported a positive T_c trend in the binary system, ζ^1 Ret – ζ^2 Ret, where one of the stars (ζ^2 Ret) hosts a debris disk. The authors explained the deficit of the refractory elements relative to volatiles in ζ^2 Ret as caused by the depletion of about $\sim 3 M_\oplus$ rocky material.

The two stars have very similar atmospheric parameters, which in principle allows for a very high-precision relative abundance characterization of the stars. Taking full advantage of this, S16 carried out a detailed and careful analysis of the system. However, the authors chose to use only the spectra of the stars observed during the same night with the same instrument (High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet Searcher – HARPS). The final signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of the spectra that they used was ~ 300 (S16), while we noticed that much higher S/N (see Table 1) can be achieved if all of the spectra from the ESO

(European Southern Observatory) HARPS archive² are combined. Moreover, some of the individual spectra found in the archive have S/N of more than 350, which allows us to carry out a differential abundance analysis between different spectra of the same star, which in turn provides an independent estimation of the precision of our measurements.

This case motivated us to explore whether the observed differences in the chemical abundances of the stars could be simply due to some systematics in the spectra. In this work, we use very high-quality spectra of the ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret binary star system to re-evaluate the presence and variability of the T_c trend in this system and, as such, better understand the impact of the presence of the debris disk on a star. We organized this paper as follows. In Sect. 2 we present the data, in Sect. 3 we present the methodology used to derive the stellar parameters and chemical abundances, and in Sect. 4 we explain how we calculate and evaluate the significance of the T_c trends. After presenting the main results in Sect. 5, we conclude in Sect. 6.

2. Data

Both stars of this binary system were extensively observed with the HARPS high-resolution spectrograph (Mayor et al. 2003) at the 3.6 m telescope (La Silla Paranal Observatory, ESO). The HARPS archive contains ~ 70 and ~ 170 spectra for ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret, respectively. We use the combined spectra of the stars (referred as 'starname_comb' in Table 1), spectra that were used in S16 (referred as 'starname_S16' in Table 1), and three individual spectra with the highest S/N for each star (referred as 'starname_a', 'starname_b', and 'starname_c' in Table 1). The highest S/N spectra are used to provide the final characteristics of this system. The individual high S/N spectra are selected to estimate the internal precision of the methods, while the spectra used by S16 are selected for external comparison.

A few of the spectra of these stars were obtained under poor atmospheric conditions (the headers of the fits files report -1.00 value for seeing), and we considered these spectra unsuitable for this work and, therefore, chose not to use them. These spectra had very low S/N and combining them would increase the total S/N of the combined spectra (listed in Table 1) by 0.03 and 1.6% for ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret, respectively. The S/N at the 40th fiber order (central wavelength $\sim 5060\text{\AA}$) for each of the HARPS spectra (retrieved from the header of the spectra) are presented in Table 1³. As one can see, even the individual spectra of the stars have a much higher S/N than that of the spectra used in S16 and, in the combined spectra, the S/N are higher by a factor of about six and ~ 13 for ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret, respectively. We note again that S16 chose to use the spectra of the stars obtained during the same night, probably to minimize the time-dependent systematics. For the Sun, we used a combined HARPS reflected spectrum from Vesta (extracted from the same public archive, S/N ~ 1300).

3. Stellar parameters and chemical abundances

We derived the stellar parameters (T_{eff} , $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, $\log g$, and V_{tur}) for the stars from the various spectra and for the Sun with the procedure described in Sousa (2014). In short, we first automatically measured the equivalent widths (EWs) of iron lines

¹ We note that Ramírez et al. (2014) also observed a correlation between the T_c slope and stellar age for metal-rich solar analogs, but apparently with opposite sign. In contrast to our results, they found that most refractory element depleted stars are younger than the those with the highest refractory element abundances.

² http://archive.eso.org/wdb/wdb/adp/phase3_spectral/form

³ The S/N for the combined spectra are calculated as a quadrature sum of the individual S/Ns.

Table 1. Stellar parameters, S/N, and observation dates of ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret derived from individual and combined spectra.

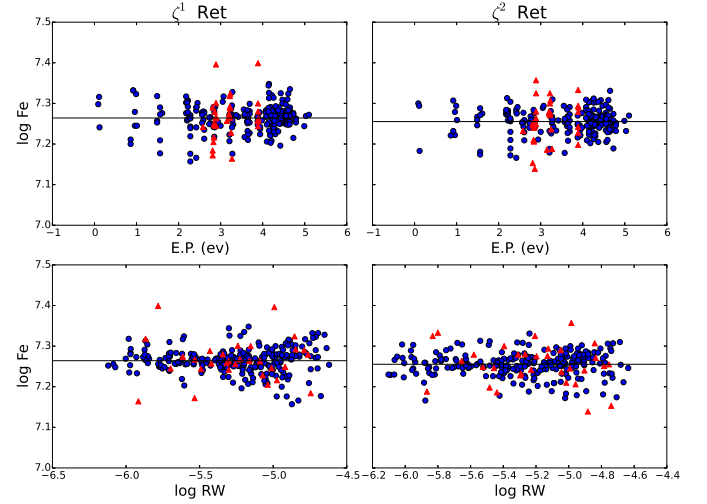
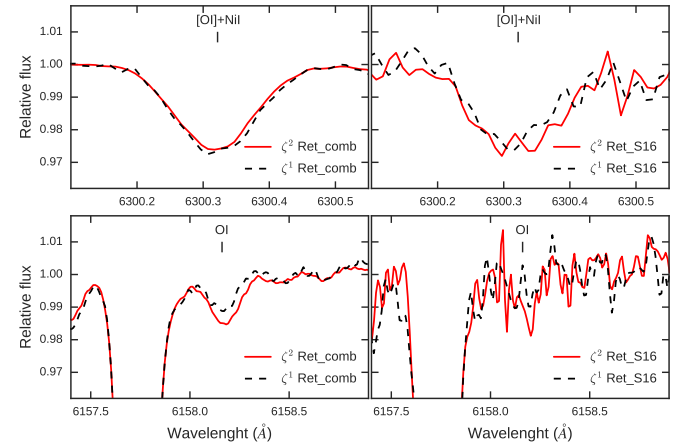
Star(spectrum)	T_{eff}	$\log g$	[Fe/H]	V_{tur}	S/N	DATE-OBS
sun_vesta	5777 \pm 10	4.43 \pm 0.02	0.020 \pm 0.010	0.95 \pm 0.02	1340	—
ζ^2 Ret.a	5856 \pm 15	4.49 \pm 0.02	-0.205 \pm 0.012	0.95 \pm 0.02	470	2006-11-08T04:02:51.439
ζ^2 Ret.b	5837 \pm 12	4.47 \pm 0.02	-0.215 \pm 0.010	0.96 \pm 0.02	450	2009-08-27T08:42:10.196
ζ^2 Ret.c	5835 \pm 13	4.48 \pm 0.03	-0.216 \pm 0.011	0.94 \pm 0.02	420	2010-01-31T01:32:05.689
ζ^2 Ret_comb	5861 \pm 12	4.53 \pm 0.02	-0.215 \pm 0.010	1.00 \pm 0.02	3000	—
ζ^2 Ret.S16	5833 \pm 15	4.48 \pm 0.03	-0.218 \pm 0.012	0.95 \pm 0.03	230	2004-02-04
ζ^1 Ret.a	5713 \pm 14	4.48 \pm 0.02	-0.197 \pm 0.011	0.88 \pm 0.02	375	2005-11-15T03:41:34.591
ζ^1 Ret.b	5696 \pm 14	4.47 \pm 0.02	-0.197 \pm 0.011	0.81 \pm 0.02	370	2005-11-15T03:52:37.899
ζ^1 Ret.c	5702 \pm 13	4.47 \pm 0.03	-0.203 \pm 0.011	0.85 \pm 0.03	360	2005-11-15T03:47:07.475
ζ^1 Ret_comb	5720 \pm 13	4.52 \pm 0.03	-0.206 \pm 0.010	0.89 \pm 0.02	1300	—
ζ^1 Ret.S16	5722 \pm 15	4.50 \pm 0.03	-0.191 \pm 0.011	0.86 \pm 0.02	215	2004-02-04

(~ 250 Fe I and ~ 40 Fe II lines) using the ARES v2 code⁴ (Sousa et al. 2015). Then the spectroscopic parameters were derived by imposing excitation and ionization balance assuming LTE (see Fig. 1). We used the grid of ATLAS9 plane-parallel model of atmospheres (Kurucz 1993) and the 2014 version of MOOG⁵ radiative transfer code (Snedden 1973). We derived the parameters of the stars with a classical rather than a line-by-line differential approach. In general, when stars with similar stellar parameters are compared, the two methods give very similar results and the estimated errors in case of differential line-by-line analysis are slightly smaller. The uncertainties of the parameters are derived as in our previous works and they are well described in Neuforge-Verheecke & Magain (1997). The derived stellar parameters are listed in Table 1.

The values in Table 1 show that the stellar parameters of the same stars derived from different spectra agree very well within the estimated errors. Furthermore, when the same spectra are used, our atmospheric parameters agree very well with those derived in S16. In particular, we obtained $\Delta T_{\text{eff}} = 12$ K, $\Delta[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.004$ dex, $\Delta \log g = -0.03$ dex, and $\Delta V_{\text{tur}} = 0.06$ km s⁻¹ for ζ^1 Ret, where the differences are defined as our values minus those of S16. For ζ^2 Ret, the differences are $\Delta T_{\text{eff}} = -21$ K, $\Delta[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.003$ dex, $\Delta \log g = -0.06$ dex, and $\Delta V_{\text{tur}} = 0.00$ km s⁻¹.

Similar to S16, we derived 0.027 dex higher metallicity for ζ^1 Ret compared to ζ^2 Ret with the same spectra. However, the difference decreases to 0.009 dex when the spectra with the highest S/N ratio are considered. Also, when different pairs of spectra of the stars are compared, the maximum difference is obtained when the ζ^1 Ret.S16 and ζ^2 Ret.S16 are used, and when ζ^1 Ret_comb and ζ^2 Ret.a pairs are compared, the ζ^2 Ret appears even slightly more metal rich than ζ^1 Ret by -0.001 dex. These results suggest that one should be cautious when reaching such an extremely small difference in stellar parameters.

Elemental abundances for the stars were also determined using an LTE analysis and the same tools and codes as for stellar parameters determination. We adopted the initial line list for Na, Mg, Al, Si, Ca, Ti, Cr, Ni, Co, Sc, Mn, and V from Adibekyan et al. (2012c), but several lines (two Si I lines $\lambda 5701.11$, $\lambda 6244.48$, two Ca I lines $\lambda 5261.71$, $\lambda 5352.05$, three Ti I lines $\lambda 4722.61$, $\lambda 5039.96$, $\lambda 5965.84$, one Ti II line $\lambda 5381.03$, two Cr I lines $\lambda 5122.12$, $\lambda 6882.52$, and two Ni I lines $\lambda 5081.11$, $\lambda 6767.78$) were excluded because of large [X/Fe] star-to-star scatter at solar metallicities (Adibekyan et al. 2015b). Finally, Ni I line at $\lambda 6360.81$ was excluded because of unreliable EW

**Fig. 1.** Iron abundance vs. excitation potential (upper panels) and iron abundance vs. reduced EW (lower panels) for ζ^1 Ret_comb and ζ^2 Ret_comb. The blue and red symbols correspond to the neutral and ionized iron lines. The black solid line indicates the linear fit of the data.**Fig. 2.** Spectral regions containing oxygen lines in ζ^1 Ret_comb, ζ^2 Ret_comb, ζ^1 Ret.S16, and ζ^2 Ret.S16 spectra.

⁴ The last version of ARES code (ARES v2) can be downloaded at <http://www.astro.up.pt/~sousasag/ares>

⁵ The source code of MOOG can be downloaded at <http://www.as.utexas.edu/~chris/moog.html>

measurements (because of a depressed continuum) and the Sc I line at $\lambda 5520.50$ was excluded because there is no data about the hyperfine structure splitting (HFS) of the lines in Kurucz atomic

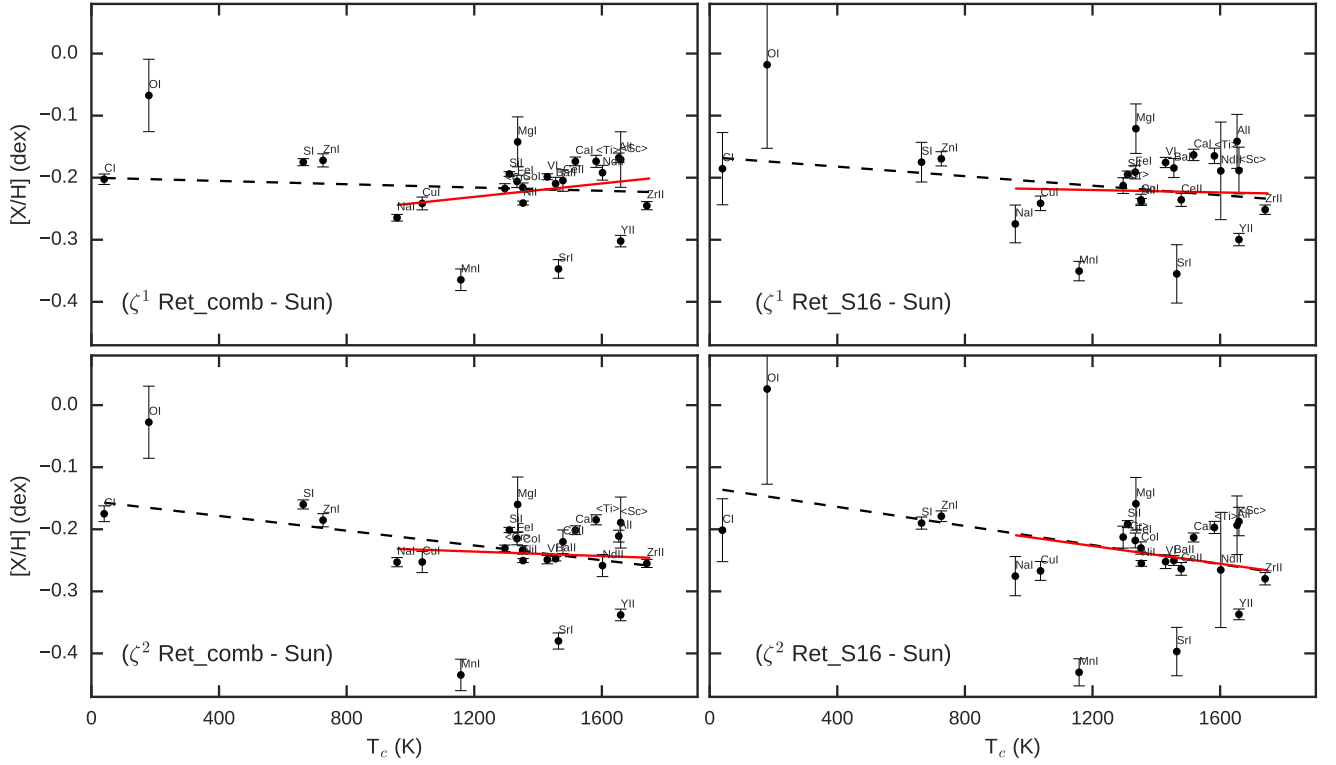


Fig. 3. Differential abundances $[X/H]$ against condensation temperature for ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret. The abundances are derived relative to the Sun with the combined spectra and spectra from S16. The black dashed line represents the trend when all of the elements are used for the linear regression and the red line is the result of the linear regression when only elements with $T_c > 900\text{K}$ are used.

line database⁶ nor in Prochaska et al. (2000), which are our two sources for the relative $\log g f$ values.

We determined oxygen abundances using two weak lines at 6158.2Å and 6300.3Å following the work of Bertran de Lis et al. (2015), although it was only possible to measure the 6158.2Å lines for the combined spectra of ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret and for the three individual spectra of ζ^2 Ret. Sulfur abundances were calculated by performing spectral synthesis with MOOG around the lines 6046.0Å, 6052.5Å, 6743.5Å, and 6757.1Å. The atomic data of those lines and the surrounding lines were taken from VALD3 database⁷. The lines at 6046.0Å and 6052.5Å (used in S16) suffer from non-negligible blends of CN bands, thus, our initial abundances derived from EWs yielded higher abundances than the other two lines. To fit the lines in the solar spectra, we had to calibrate the $\log g f$ s of the S lines (the line list and atomic data are available at CDS), to match a solar sulfur abundance $A(\text{S})=7.16$ (Asplund et al. 2009). Cerium abundances were derived using the three spectral lines presented in Reddy et al. (2003) and the line at 5274.2Å for which the atomic data was extracted from VALD3. Carbon abundances were based on the two well-known CI optical lines at 5052Å and 5380Å. The atomic data for carbon and elements heavier than Ni were also extracted from VALD3 (a more detailed line list will be shown in Delgado Mena et al. in prep).

When available, the Barklem damping van der Waals constants were used for all of the elements. Otherwise, the Unsöld approximation multiplied by a factor $(1.0+0.67 \times \text{E.P.})$, where E.P. is the excitation potential of a line) suggested by the Blackwell

group was used (option 2 in the damping parameter inside MOOG). For the Sc, V, Mn, Co, Cu, and Ba lines, HFS was considered. We adopted the atomic parameters and isotopic ratios from Prochaska et al. (2000) for Ba, and the relative $\log g f$ values and isotopic ratios for the lines were taken from Kurucz database for the remaining elements.

The EWs of the lines were derived with ARES v2 code, but with careful visual inspection. In a few cases, when the ARES measurements were not satisfactory (this can happen, e.g., as a result of a presence of cosmic rays or bad pixels), we measured the EWs using the task *splot* in IRAF⁸. We calculated the final abundance of the elements (when several spectral lines were available) as a weighted mean of all of the abundances, where the distance from the median abundance was considered as a weight. As demonstrated in Adibekyan et al. (2015b), this method can be effectively used without removing suspected outlier lines.

We performed differential line-by-line analysis relative to the Sun for the combined and S16 spectra. We also performed differential abundance analysis of ζ^2 Ret_comb relative to ζ^1 Ret_comb, and ζ^2 Ret_S16 relative to ζ^1 Ret_S16. Finally, for both stars we derived differential abundances from each of the individual three spectra ('starname_b' and 'starname_c' relative to 'starname_a') relative to each other.

The errors of the $[X/H]$ abundances are calculated as a quadrature sum of the errors due to EW measurements and errors due to uncertainties in the atmospheric parameters. When three or more lines were available, the EW measurement error is estimated as $\sigma / \sqrt{(n-1)}$, where σ is the line-to-line abundance

⁶ <http://kurucz.harvard.edu/linelists.html>

⁷ <http://vald.astro.univie.ac.at/vald3/php/vald.php?newsitem=0>

⁸ IRAF is distributed by National Optical Astronomy Observatories, operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under contract with the National Science Foundation, USA.

Table 2. Slopes of the $[X/H]$ vs. T_c for different pairs of spectra. Both frequentist and Bayesian approaches are chosen to derive the slopes and their uncertainties.

Star – Reference	WLS (all elements)			Bayesian (all elements)			WLS (refractories)			Bayesian (refractories)		
	Slope $\pm\sigma$	95% CI	P(F-stat)	Slope	95% HPD		Slope $\pm\sigma$	95% CI	P(F-stat)	Slope	95% HPD	
ζ^1 Ret.comb – Sun	-1.32 \pm 2.28	[-6.04, 3.40]	0.567	-1.32	[-2.11, -0.46]		5.40 \pm 4.37	[-3.78, 14.58]	0.232	5.37	[3.75, 6.99]	
ζ^1 Ret.S16 – Sun	-3.83 \pm 3.92	[-11.96, 4.30]	0.339	-3.83	[-5.67, -1.75]		-0.99 \pm 5.84	[-13.25, 11.28]	0.868	-1.01	[-3.56, 1.75]	
ζ^2 Ret.comb – Sun	-5.95 \pm 2.66	[-11.46, -0.44]	0.036	-5.95	[-6.93, -4.84]		-1.81 \pm 5.07	[-12.45, 8.83]	0.725	-1.81	[-3.78, -0.02]	
ζ^2 Ret.S16 – Sun	-7.68 \pm 3.19	[-14.30, -1.07]	0.025	-7.68	[-9.22, -6.12]		-7.16 \pm 6.89	[-21.63, 7.31]	0.312	-7.19	[-10.22, -4.26]	
ζ^1 Ret.comb – ζ^2 Ret.comb	3.41 \pm 1.23	[0.86, 5.96]	0.011	-3.41	[-4.27, -2.52]		4.88 \pm 2.16	[0.35, 9.41]	0.036	4.88	[3.45, 6.29]	
ζ^1 Ret.S16 – ζ^2 Ret.S16	3.77 \pm 2.16	[-0.71, 8.25]	0.095	-3.79	[-5.37, -2.00]		4.83 \pm 3.42	[-2.34, 12.01]	0.174	4.86	[2.52, 7.31]	
ζ^1 Ret.b – ζ^1 Ret.a	2.35 \pm 2.21	[-2.24, 6.94]	0.300	2.34	[1.17, 3.62]		4.83 \pm 2.83	[-1.12, 10.77]	0.105	4.83	[3.34, 6.44]	
ζ^1 Ret.c – ζ^1 Ret.a	-0.14 \pm 0.84	[-1.89, 1.61]	0.867	-0.14	[-1.30, 0.99]		-0.22 \pm 1.40	[-3.16, 2.73]	0.880	-0.21	[-1.91, 1.59]	
ζ^1 Ret.c – ζ^1 Ret.b	1.13 \pm 0.76	[-0.45, 2.70]	0.153	1.13	[0.24, 2.00]		-0.28 \pm 0.90	[-2.18, 1.61]	0.759	-0.28	[-1.45, 0.80]	
ζ^2 Ret.b – ζ^2 Ret.a	-1.60 \pm 0.79	[-3.24, 0.04]	0.055	-1.61	[-3.09, -0.18]		-1.67 \pm 1.04	[-3.84, 0.51]	0.125	-1.68	[-3.43, 0.12]	
ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.a	-1.36 \pm 0.76	[-2.94, 0.22]	0.087	-1.35	[-2.59, -0.17]		-0.35 \pm 0.94	[-2.33, 1.63]	0.714	-0.37	[-2.16, 1.32]	
ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.b	-1.86 \pm 1.06	[-4.05, 0.33]	0.092	-1.86	[-3.24, -0.44]		0.72 \pm 1.37	[-2.15, 3.59]	0.603	0.70	[-1.52, 3.09]	

Note: * The units of the slopes are in 10^{-5} dex K^{-1} .

scatter and n is the number of the observed lines. The errors arising from uncertainties in the stellar parameters are calculated as a quadratic sum of the abundance sensitivities on the variation of the stellar parameters by their one σ uncertainties. These errors are usually much smaller (because of very small uncertainties in stellar parameters) than the errors due to EW measurements.

The error estimation method described in the previous paragraph is most frequently used, even when only two lines are observed. However, the dispersion (σ_{sample}) calculated using only two lines can be very different from the dispersion rooted in the uncertainty on the abundances, a value that can only be efficiently estimated if large number of lines are available. A simple calculation shows that if one assumes that the errors follow a normal distribution and that σ_{sample} is the standard deviation of that distribution, then the $\sigma_{two-lines}$ calculated from two random lines from that distribution peaks close to zero, underestimating σ_{sample} . The $\sigma_{two-lines}$ is smaller than $0.5\sigma_{real}$ in $\sim 38\%$ cases and $\sigma_{two-lines}$ is five times smaller than σ_{real} in $\sim 16\%$ cases. Moreover, in the cases when two lines of an element give exactly the same abundance, then the calculated dispersion is zero and the final error is equal to the error due to uncertainties in the atmospheric parameters. Since the latter is usually very small, the weight given to this element when calculating the T_c slope is extremely high (see Sect. 4). Such underestimated errors can play a crucial role in the incorrect determination of the slopes.

We calculated the errors on EWs following Cayrel (1988) to provide more realistic errors for the abundances of elements that only have two observed spectral lines in our spectra (except oxygen). The calculated uncertainty takes into account the statistical photometric error due to the noise in each pixel and the error related to the continuum placement, which is the dominant contribution to the error (Cayrel 1988; Bertran de Lis et al. 2015). Then, these errors are propagated to derive the abundance uncertainties for each line. The final uncertainties for the average abundance are propagated from these individual errors.

When only one line for a given element is available, as is the case for O (for some spectra) and Sr, we determine the error by measuring a second EW with the position of the continuum displaced within the root mean square (rms) due to the noise of the spectra, and calculating the difference in abundance with respect to the original value. In this manner, the elements with only a weak line (as for oxygen in some cases) have a large error in their abundance measurements. This is in contrast to elements with strong lines, such as Sr, where the fact of having a single

line does not affect the final error too much; see, for comparison, the error bars in Fig. 3 for O and Sr and how they vary between the highest and lowest S/N spectra). We stress here the case of oxygen for which we find a very different value than S16. Their differential abundance (ζ^1 Ret – ζ^2 Ret) is almost 0.1 dex lower than ours and their reported error is much smaller. In Fig. 2 we show a part of the spectra used by S16 around the 6300Å region; it is strongly affected by noise. The EW values are very similar for both stars, but our abundance determinations have a larger error because of the strong effect of a small change in the continuum in this very weak line. As mentioned by S16, this line is blended with a Ni line, and if we consider that the two stars have similar Ni abundances, it seems difficult to reconcile such a large difference in abundance values even if our atomic parameters for the Ni blend are different. However, for the combined, very high S/N spectra we can also measure with better precision the oxygen line at 6158.2Å, which suggests very similar oxygen abundance to that derived from the 6300.3Å line. This example shows the difficulty in measuring oxygen abundances. Such an issue is very important in the context of T_c trend analysis, as the low condensation temperature of oxygen leads to a strong leverage on the final slope value.

Since both oxygen lines are very weak and deserve special attention (see, e.g., Bertran de Lis et al. 2015), even when both lines were observed for a spectrum we calculated individual errors for each line (as described in the previous paragraph) and then propagated the error of the average oxygen abundance. The EWs of all of the measured lines and the abundances of the elements derived from all of the spectra are available on the CDS.

4. T_c slope

Once the differential abundances and corresponding errors are derived we can search for abundance trends with the condensation temperature of the elements. The 50% T_c equilibrium condensation temperatures for a gas of solar system composition are taken from Lodders (2003). It is common practice to plot $[X/Fe]$ (and not just $[X/H]$) versus T_c , which allows us to remove the trends related to Galactic chemical evolution (e.g., González Hernández et al. 2013; Saffe et al. 2016). Although this procedure can be justified when stars with different metallicities are compared, it can produce a bias in the derived slope. Subtracting the iron abundance (a constant value) from each elemental abundance should only shift the trend but should not change the slope.

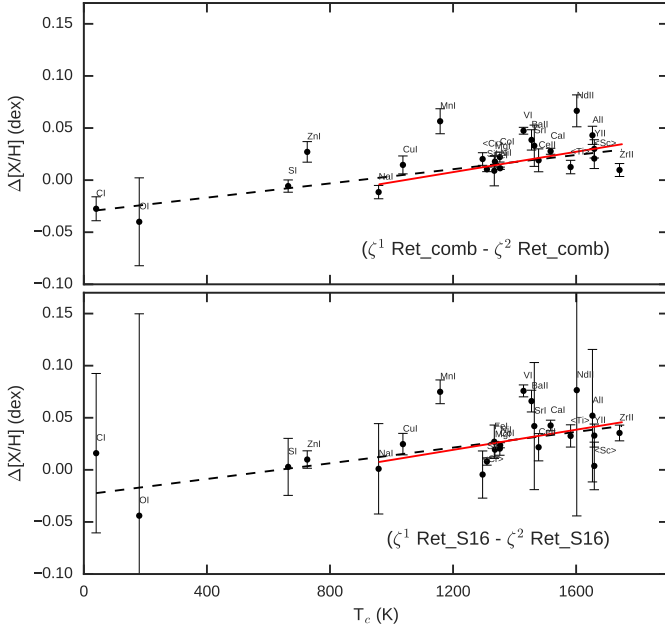


Fig. 4. Differential abundances (ζ^2 Ret – ζ^1 Ret) against condensation temperature. The abundances are derived for the combined spectra and spectra that were used in S16. The black dashed line and red line are the same as in Fig. 3.

However, since iron abundance has an error itself, the propagated errors of the $[X/Fe]$ abundance ratios should be adjusted. This change in turn can have an impact on the original slope. In an extreme (although not very realistic) case that the error of iron abundance is much larger than the errors of individual $[X/H]$ abundances, then the propagated errors of $[X/Fe]$ abundance ratios would be dominated by the error of $[Fe/H]$. In this case the weighted least-squares regression would give a result similar to an ordinary least-squares regression, i.e., the weights of all of the elements would be similar. This discussion suggests that if the abundances are normalized to another element (not iron), the result would be different depending on the error of the element used for normalization. Moreover, if the abundances are not normalized to the iron abundance, the $[Fe/H]$ value can also be used in the calculations of the slopes. For these reasons we use $[X/H]$ in our analysis when deriving the T_c trend.

In Table 2 we present the T_c slopes, corresponding standard errors, 95% confidence intervals (CI) and p-values (at $\alpha=0.05$ significance level). The T_c slopes refer to the slope of the linear dependence between $[X/H]$ and T_c . We calculated the slopes with the weighted least-squares (WLS) technique, whereas we calculated the weights as the inverse of the variance (σ^2) of the abundance. The p-values come from the F-statistics that tests the null hypothesis that the data can be modeled accurately by setting the regression coefficients to zero. The 95% confidence intervals are calculated using the standard error of the slopes and the p-value from T-statistics that tests the null hypothesis that the coefficient of a predictor variable is zero, i.e., slope is zero.

We also use a Bayesian approach to assess the presence of a dependence of $[X/H]$ on T_c and to calculate the slope of the dependence. It has been shown that p-value analysis, even if very widespread, is not as robust as expected; the assessment of the significance of a correlation is further complicated when the p-value is close to the significance level. In Figueira et al. (2016) we provided a straightforward alternative Bayesian ap-

proach to the assessment and characterization of a correlation in a dataset. However, relying on the Pearson correlation coefficient and Sperman’s rank, Figueira et al. (2016) did not consider the impact of error bars on the measurements. We consider the case of a linear regression in which the value of each ordinate Y_i follows a Gaussian distribution of center dictated by the evaluation of a linear slope on the abscissa X_i and variance given by σ^2 . Using the MCMC (Markov Chain Monte Carlo) algorithm implemented in PyMC (Patil et al. 2010), and assuming uninformative Gaussian distributions of center 0 and $\sigma = 1000$ as priors for the slope parameters and intersect, we estimated the best fit to the data. In Table 2 we present the T_c slopes and the associated 95% credible intervals (highest posterior density; HPD) calculated by applying this Bayesian approach.

The Bayesian and frequentist analyses differ in important ways. Since both approaches are addressing and solving exactly the same problem, the slopes calculated by the two methods are almost identical. However, since the CI (in frequentist analysis) and the HPD (in Bayesian approach) have different meanings, their values can be different and should be interpreted differently (e.g., Morey et al. 2015). A 95% CI is an interval that in repeated sampling has a 0.95 probability of containing the true value of the parameter, i.e., if a large number of samples are used, the true value of the slope will fall within the CI in 95% of the cases. A 95% HPD is the interval that contains the true value of slope with a probability of 0.95 given the current sample (data). This said, it should not come as a surprise that a 95% HPD is usually much smaller than the 95% CI, which makes most of the correlations significant (at 95% level).

In Table 2 we present the T_c slopes that were derived for different pairs of stars and spectra. The slopes are derived by considering all of the elements and also by considering only refractory elements that have $T_c > 900$ K.

To understand better how the calculated T_c slopes are sensitive to the abundance uncertainties, we also calculated the slopes without considering the errors. In the frequentist approach giving the same error (which means the same weight) to all of the elements or not considering errors yields the same results, since the calculated slope value is only sensitive to the relative weights of the points. In the Bayesian approach, the absolute error value of each point is important when evaluating the significance of the correlations, i.e., assuming 0.01 dex error for all of the elements produces a result that is very different if an error of 0.1 dex was assumed for all of the elements.

In the Appendix we present all of the T_c trend calculations discussed in the main text, without considering the errors for the individual abundances, i.e., applying an ordinary linear regression (OLS).

5. Results

In Fig. 3 we show the dependence of differential $[X/H]$ abundances of ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret relative to the Sun on the corresponding T_c . The abundances are derived using the combined spectra and spectra that were used in S16. Table 2 and the corresponding plot shows that there is no trend with T_c for ζ^1 Ret, while ζ^2 Ret shows a significant trend when the frequentist p-values are considered for null-hypothesis rejection testing. This trend, seen both from the combined and S16 spectra, is heavily driven by Si and Zn (due to their small errors and hence large weight) and disappears when only refractory elements with $T_c > 900$ K are considered. We note that S16 did not find a significant T_c trend for the two stars when compared with the Sun. However, direct comparison of the slopes is not straightforward

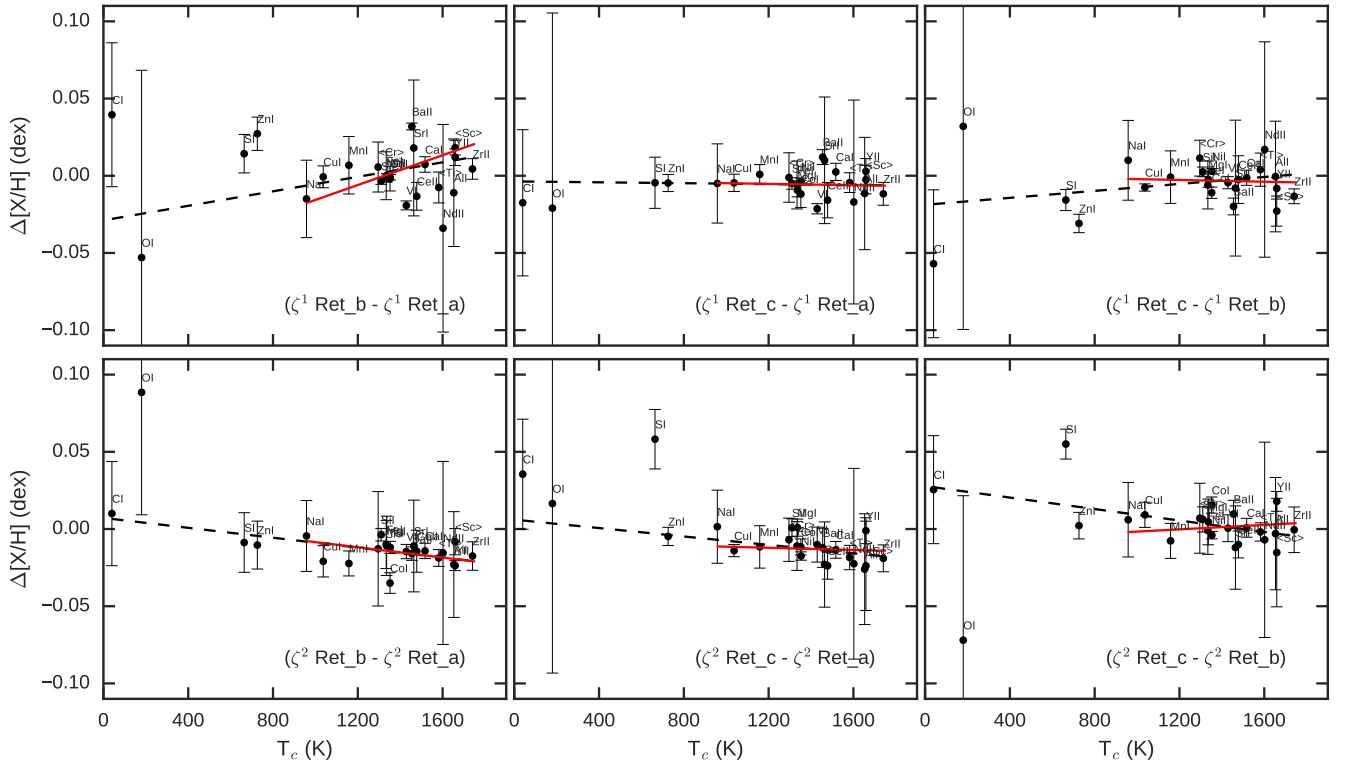


Fig. 5. Differential abundances against condensation temperature for ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret, derived from three highest S/N individual spectra. The black dashed line and red line are the same as in Fig. 3.

since we use different elements than S16 and, furthermore, those investigators corrected the abundances for the Galactic chemical evolution effect, while we did not.

Since the differential abundances of the stars relative to the Sun can be affected by several factors, such as GCE, age, or the relative effect of NLTE on stars with similar, but not exactly the same stellar parameters, and we are interested in testing whether the two stars of the binary system show different refractory-to-volatile element ratios, in Fig. 4 we plot the differential abundances of ζ^1 Ret relative to ζ^2 Ret. The plot and corresponding Table 2 shows that there is a strong and significant correlation with the T_c in both cases when all of the elements and only refractory elements are considered for the linear regression. The slopes derived from the combined and S16 spectra are very similar, but the errors of the slopes for the case of combined spectra are smaller and the significance is higher. Following the interpretation of Meléndez et al. (2009), in S16 the authors based on this result proposed that refractory elements depleted in ζ^2 Ret are locked up in the debris disk that the star hosts.

To test the hypothesis that the observed T_c trend is due to the presence of a debris around ζ^2 Ret, we performed the following test. We used the three highest S/N individual spectra for each star (ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret) and derived differential abundances for each star using different spectra as reference. The results are plotted in Fig. 5 and presented in Table 2. This test clearly shows that the slope of the T_c trend significantly changes depending on which pair of spectra are compared. It is interesting to note that some of the observed trends are relatively significant (e.g., ζ^2 Ret.b – ζ^2 Ret.a). These results, in turn, mean that if different spectra of the two stars are used to derive the T_c trend between the two stars, very different results can be obtained, ranging in

significance from nonsignificant (i.e., having a slope compatible with zero) to very significant.

It is difficult to identify the main reason(s) of the observed T_c trend between different spectra of the same star. All of the spectra are observed with the same, and most stable spectrograph, HARPS, which minimizes the possible effects of spectral resolution and instrumental profile. While the three spectra of ζ^2 Ret are taken at different dates (on 11 August 2006, 27 August 2009, and 31 January 2010, for ζ^2 Ret.a, ζ^2 Ret.b, and ζ^2 Ret.c, respectively), the selected three individual high S/N spectra of ζ^1 Ret are taken on the same night (15 November 2005). This means that time-dependent systematics are much less likely to play an important role for the observed trend for ζ^1 Ret. This could be the reason that the T_c slopes for this star are less significant compared to those of its companion. The two stars exhibit different levels of activity; ζ^1 Ret ($\langle \log R'_{HK} \rangle = -4.662$) is more active than ζ^2 Ret ($\langle \log R'_{HK} \rangle = -4.892$) (Zechmeister et al. 2013). Although ζ^1 Ret is more active than its companion, the stellar variability should not play a significant role in the observed difference in the chemical abundances between the different spectra of the star since, again, the observations are carried out on the same night.

Recently, Bedell et al. (2014) analyzed solar spectra observed with different instruments, from different asteroids, and at different times, i.e., conditions. The authors reached a conclusion that the major effect on differential relative abundances is caused by the use of different instruments. They also found no significant (more than 2σ) T_c trend between the different spectra they used.

One of the main factors that can produce (or affect) the T_c trend is the correct derivation of stellar parameters and their errors. Different elements (and corresponding spectral lines) show

different sensitivities to atmospheric temperature (depending on the excitation potential), surface gravity (depending on the ionization state), and stellar metallicity (see, e.g., Adibekyan et al. 2012c).

Another very important factor that can determine the T_c slope is the error estimation for the individual elements. Since we use the errors as weights for each abundance, the elements with the smallest errors have the largest weights and may determine the slope and its confidence interval. As discussed in Sect. 3, the errors can be underestimated only if two lines are used and the line-to-line dispersion is used to estimate the errors on the EWs. It is also important to mention the high weights of elements with a large number of lines in the derivation of the T_c slopes. Since the error of the abundances is calculated as $\sigma/\sqrt{(n-1)}$, the elements such as Ni and Ti, which have many spectral lines, show the smallest errors and, hence, have a key role in the determination of the slope value.

The importance of the errors of individual chemical abundances is well illustrated in Figs. A.1, A.2, A.3, and in Table A.1. In these plots and table, we present the derivation of the T_c slopes for the above discussed stars and spectra, but applying OLS, i.e., no errors (or equal errors) are considered. We can clearly see that for the same star or spectra the OLS and WLS give very different results. The Table A.1 also shows that the most significant trends are observed for (ζ^1 Ret.comb – ζ^2 Ret.comb), (ζ^2 Ret.b – ζ^2 Ret.a), and (ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.a). Moreover, the only significant trend that remains when considering only the refractory elements with $T_c > 900$ K is for the (ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.a) pair.

6. Conclusion

The ζ Reticuli binary system, composed of two solar analogs, is a very interesting and well-known system not only in the scientific literature, but also in science fiction literature⁹ and movies,¹⁰ as a word of Zeta Reticulans¹¹.

Both stars of this binary system are in planet search programs and the presence of short-period small (or massive) planets or larger period massive planets can be excluded (see S16). However, there is indirect evidence that the ζ^2 Ret may have a massive eccentric companion that perturbed its eccentric debris disk (Faramaz et al. 2014).

We used several high-quality ($S/N > 360$) individual and combined spectra (S/N of 1300 and 3000) of ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret to revisit the results obtained in S16, namely that ζ^2 Ret shows a deficit of refractory elements (relative to volatiles) when compared to ζ^1 Ret probably because of the presence of the debris disk that ζ^2 Ret hosts. We first derived the stellar parameters using the classical (nondifferential) method, then applied careful line-by-line differential abundance analysis of the stars relative to the Sun and relative to each other.

When we consider the combined, highest S/N spectra of the two stars we obtain similar T_c trend as was reported in S16. The trend exists when all of the elements and only refractory elements are considered in the derivation of the T_c slope. We also show that when comparing the chemical abundances of the same individual stars (ζ^1 Ret with ζ^1 Ret and ζ^2 Ret with ζ^2 Ret) derived from different individual spectra, we observe different and sometimes significant T_c trends. The trends observed between different individual spectra of ζ^1 Ret that are observed during

the same night, are less significant than those observed for the ζ^2 Ret that are observed on different nights.

In this context, there is no consensus on the results of the T_c trend for some individual systems (e.g., 16 Cyg AB; Laws & Gonzalez 2001; Takeda 2005; Schuler et al. 2011a; Tucci Maia et al. 2014). The reported differences can be due to the same sort of effect that we discussed in this study.

Our results show that when studying tiny chemical abundance trends with condensation temperature, it is very important to use very high-quality combined spectra. The combination of several spectra increase the S/N and may minimize possible time-dependent effects. The results also show that there are other nonastrophysical factors (such as over- or underestimation of the errors of the individual elements) that may be responsible for the observed T_c trends and indicate that one should be very careful when analyzing very subtle differences in chemical abundances between stars. However, we should stress that this result does not imply that all of the observed T_c trends do not have an astrophysical origin.

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⁹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stars_and_planetary_systems_in_fiction#Zeta_Reticuli

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_UFO_Incident

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey_alien

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Appendix A: T_c slope in OLS

In this section we present the calculation of the T_c slopes for the stars without considering the errors of the individual chemical abundances.

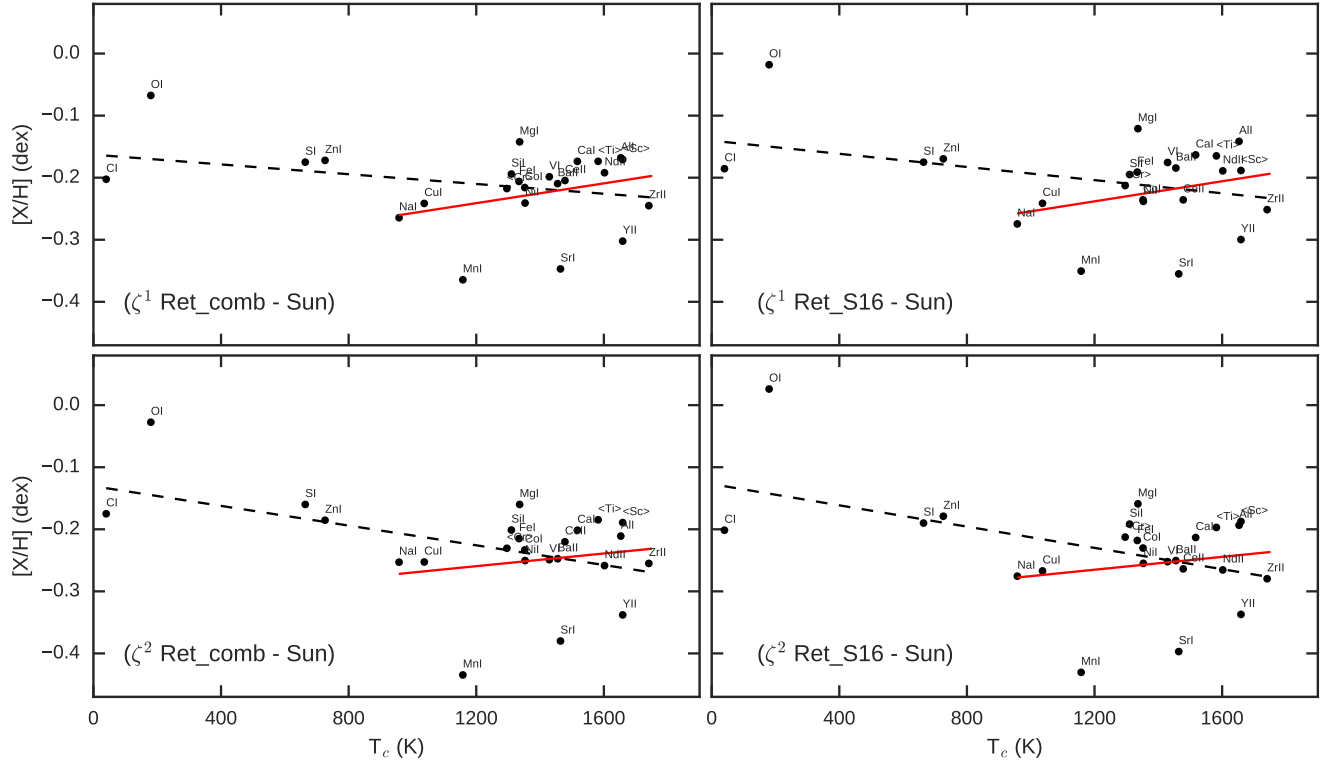


Fig. A.1. Same as Fig. 3, but the slopes are calculated without considering the errors of the individual abundances.

Table A.1. Slopes of the $[X/H]$ vs. T_c for different pairs of spectra. A frequentist approach is chosen to derive the slopes and their uncertainties without considering the errors on individual element abundances.

Star – Reference	OLS (all elements)			OLS (refractories)		
	Slope $\pm\sigma$	95% CI	P(F-stat)	Slope $\pm\sigma$	95% CI	P(F-stat)
ζ^1 Ret.comb – Sun	-3.94 ± 2.88	$[-9.91, 2.04]$	0.186	7.97 ± 6.33	$[-5.33, 21.28]$	0.224
ζ^1 Ret.S16 – Sun	-5.30 ± 3.21	$[-11.97, 1.36]$	0.113	8.09 ± 6.88	$[-6.36, 22.54]$	0.255
ζ^2 Ret.comb – Sun	-7.94 ± 3.32	$[-14.83, -1.05]$	0.026	5.11 ± 7.41	$[-10.46, 20.68]$	0.499
ζ^2 Ret.S16 – Sun	-8.57 ± 3.67	$[-16.18, -0.96]$	0.029	5.18 ± 7.66	$[-10.91, 21.27]$	0.507
ζ^1 Ret.comb – ζ^2 Ret.comb	3.75 ± 0.83	$[2.04, 5.47]$	1.6×10^{-4}	2.88 ± 1.97	$[-1.25, 7.01]$	0.160
ζ^1 Ret.S16 – ζ^2 Ret.S16	3.48 ± 1.13	$[1.14, 5.83]$	0.005	3.12 ± 2.70	$[-2.56, 8.80]$	0.263
ζ^1 Ret.b – ζ^1 Ret.a	-0.19 ± 0.96	$[-2.18, 1.80]$	0.846	0.69 ± 1.65	$[-2.77, 4.16]$	0.679
ζ^1 Ret.c – ζ^1 Ret.a	0.60 ± 0.39	$[-0.21, 1.42]$	0.140	-0.42 ± 0.96	$[-2.43, 1.59]$	0.669
ζ^1 Ret.c – ζ^1 Ret.b	0.83 ± 0.80	$[-0.82, 2.48]$	0.310	-1.38 ± 1.06	$[-3.62, 0.85]$	0.210
ζ^2 Ret.b – ζ^2 Ret.a	-3.33 ± 0.80	$[-5.00, -1.66]$	4.2×10^{-4}	-0.65 ± 0.81	$[-2.35, 1.04]$	0.430
ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.a	-3.36 ± 0.60	$[-4.59, -2.12]$	1.2×10^{-5}	-2.23 ± 0.84	$[-4.00, -0.46]$	0.016
ζ^2 Ret.c – ζ^2 Ret.b	0.13 ± 1.01	$[-1.96, 2.22]$	0.899	-1.14 ± 0.96	$[-3.16, 0.89]$	0.254

Note: Units of the slopes are in 10^{-5} dex K^{-1} .

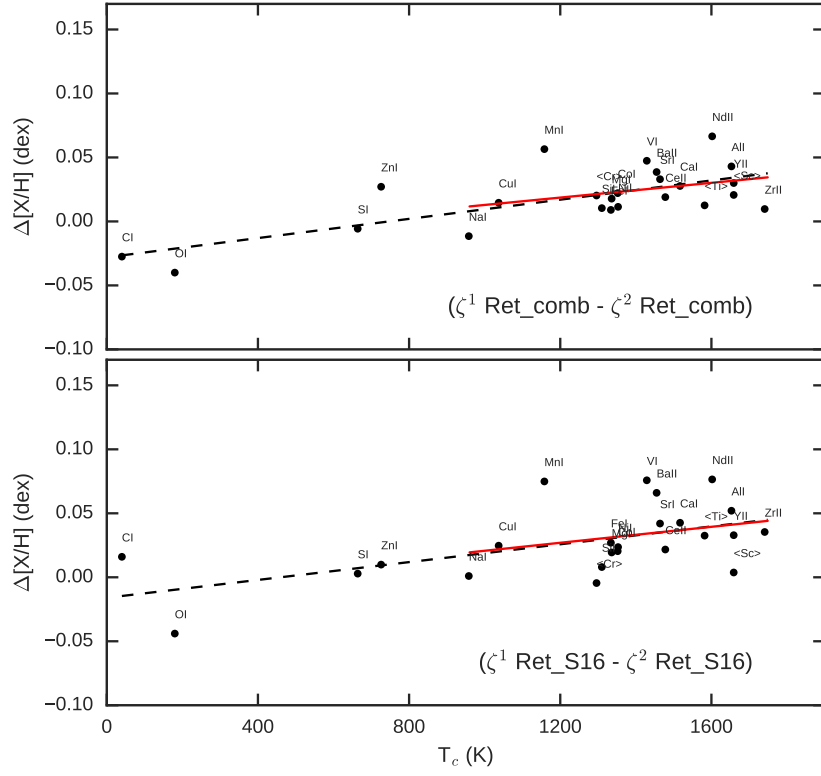


Fig. A.2. Same as Fig. 4, but the slopes are calculated without considering the errors of the individual abundances.

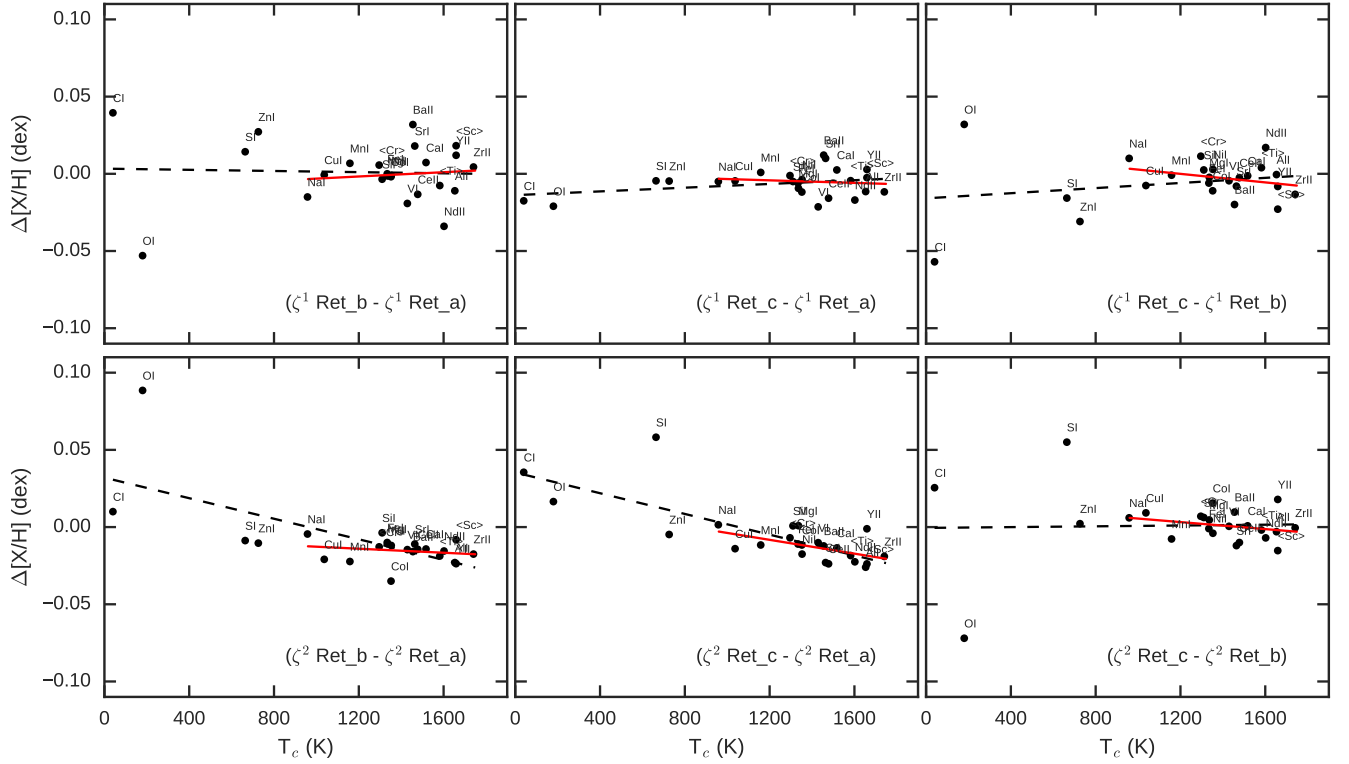


Fig. A.3. Same as Fig. 5, but the slopes are calculated without considering the errors of the individual abundances.